

6,772,092

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	Filing Date	January 14, 2002	
	First Named Inventor	STEPHEN N. GAISKI	
	Art Unit	702	
	Examiner Name	KAMINI SHAH	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	2	Attorney Docket Number	GSN-105-A

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): <div style="text-align: right;"> Certificate FEB 24 2005 </div>
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CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO : 6,772,092 *B2*
DATED : August 3, 2004
INVENTOR(S) : STEPHEN N. GAISKI

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Col. 27, line 8
replace "workplaces"
with --workpieces--.

Col. 27, line 49
replace "b"
with --being--.

Col. 27, line 50
replace "ing"
with -- --.

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:

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PATENT NO. 6,772,092

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US006772092B2

(12) United States Patent
Gaiski**(10) Patent No.: US 6,772,092 B2**
(45) Date of Patent: Aug. 3, 2004**(54) METHOD FOR GENERATING COATING
FILM BUILD USAGE AND COST IMPACT
FROM CPK'S****OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

- (76) Inventor: **Stephen N. Gaiski**, 43422 West Oaks Dr., Suite 328, Novi, MI (US) 48377
- (*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 27 days.

Talbert Rodger, "Controlling Operation Costs", The Gale Group Trade & Industry, Coating 22, 6, 116, Jul. 2001.*

Breyfogle III, Forest W., "Implementing Six Sigma", 1999, p. 160.

AIAG (Automotive Industry Action Group) Statistical Process Control (SPC) Reference Manual, p. 41, no date.

AIAG Reference Manual, 1992, p. 42, 43 and 45.

* cited by examiner

(21) Appl. No.: **10/043,922**(22) Filed: **Jan. 14, 2002****(65) Prior Publication Data**

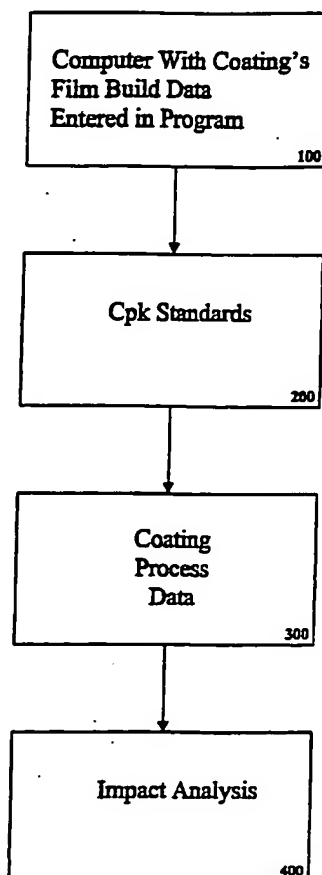
US 2003/0139897 A1 Jul. 24, 2003

(51) Int. Cl.⁷ **G01B 17/02**(52) U.S. Cl. **702/170; 702/97; 73/597; 73/598; 73/801; 700/90; 324/230**(58) Field of Search **700/90; 705/1, 705/7, 8, 400; 118/52, 668; 427/384; 361/15; 702/170; 356/503; 382/108; 73/597, 598****(56) References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

6,067,509 A * 5/2000 Gaiski 702/170

Primary Examiner—Kamini Shah(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Charles W. Chandler**(57) ABSTRACT**

A computer program for correlating coatings' material usage and cost impact with coatings ranges evaluated against an industry C_{pk} standard. Optimum range values are selected from the process and/or coatings applicators' manufacturer guidelines.

15 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

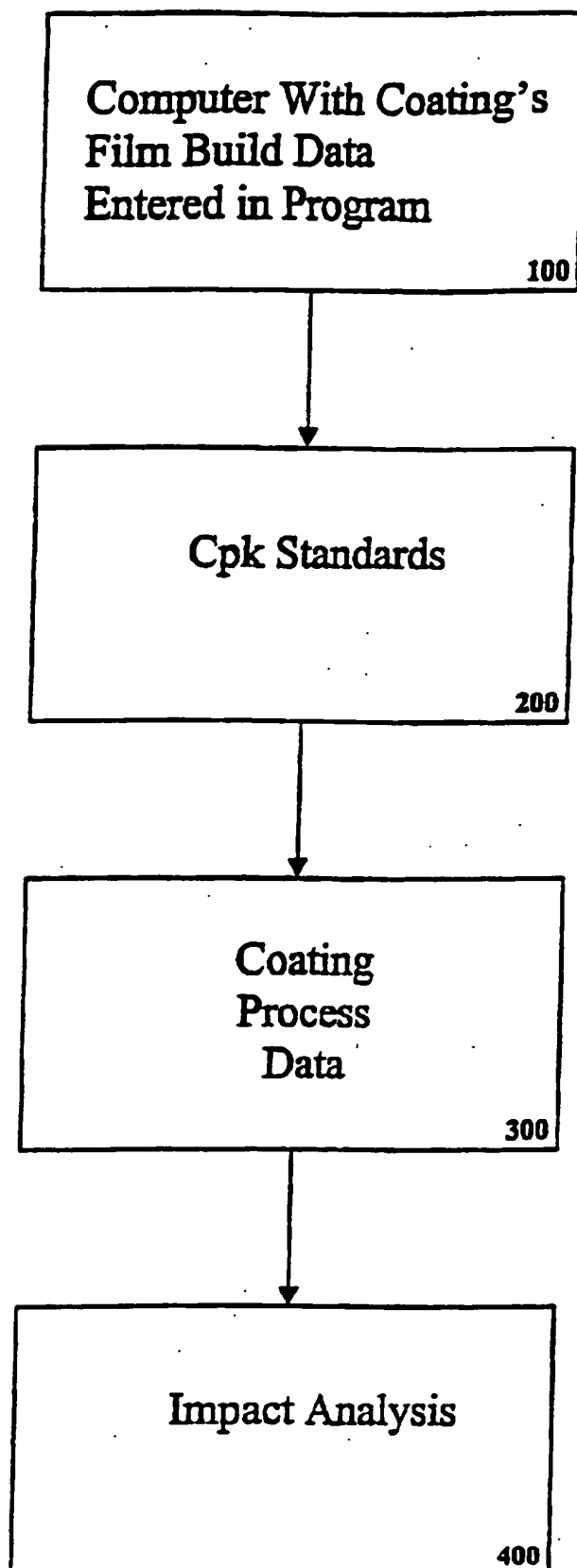


FIGURE 1

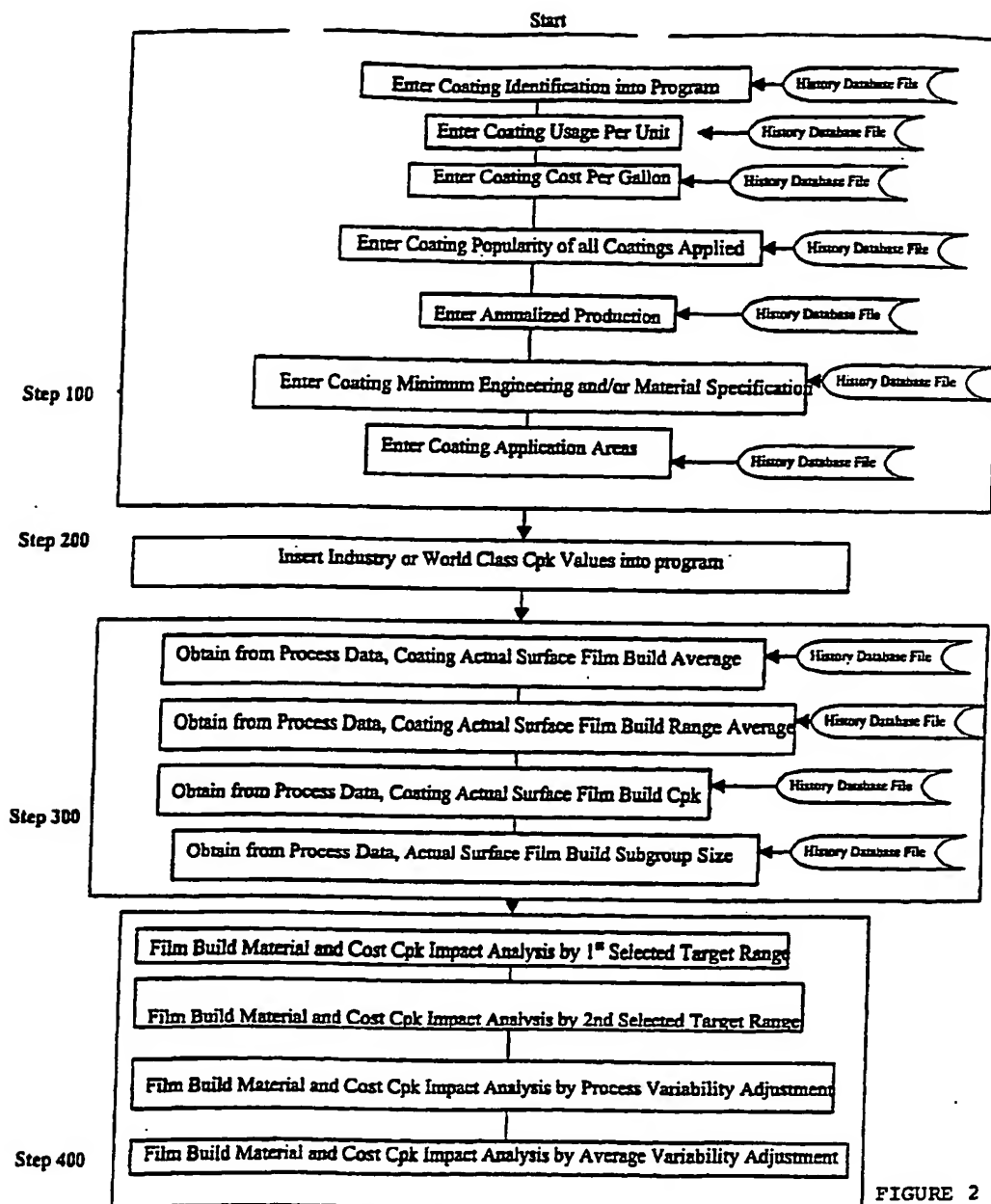


FIGURE 2

METHOD FOR GENERATING COATING FILM BUILD USAGE AND COST IMPACT FROM CPK'S

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Statistical process control charts track coating processes by plotting data over time. C_{pk} is a statistical index that indicates whether a process will consistently produce coated units with a film having a thickness that is centered within tolerance limits. This invention relates to a novel computer-implemented process that anticipates the effect of C_{pk} for optimizing coatings usage and costs by reducing variability in film build thickness. The process minimizes the environmental impact of volatile organic compounds from the overspray of finishes being applied to painted parts. Improved quality is achieved by analyzing obvious non-random patterns of film variability. The system uses software that refers to the Industry and/or World Class Standards for C_{pk} 's. Optimum film build range and average values selected from the process and/or the coating applicators' manufacturer guidelines are used for calculating the impact of changing coating thickness on all finished surfaces in terms of paint usage and costs.

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Manufacturers of painted products, such as automotive bodies and/or furniture companies, assess paint film build thickness by various measurement tools. These tools include the Elcometer, the Pelt Gage or a Wet Gage. These devices measure film build thickness at specific points on the painted unit. Data from these measurements are then downloaded into a commercially available software database. Numerous statistical process control (SPC) and trend charts are generated from this data. These control charts include \bar{X} (average thickness vs. time); R charts (range of thickness vs. time) [APPENDIX A], and Individual Moving Range Charts [APPENDIX B]. Appendix A charts the film thickness average readings of a paint coating, taken Oct. 10, 2000 to Mar. 21, 2001, in millimeters. Appendix B charts the film build average values on automotive bodies taken Oct. 10, 2000 to Dec. 21, 2000.

Control limits are defined as a line (or lines) on a chart used for evaluating the stability of a process.

Typical control limits are plus or minus three standard deviation limits using at least 20 data points. When a point falls outside these limits, the process is said to be out of control.

Additionally, schematics of the painted unit [APPENDIX C] can be prepared which highlight or animate the painted surface areas' compliance with either material and/or engineering coating specifications.

Process engineers review these charts and make corrective changes to the automation equipment, and any manual application equipment applying the coating. Considerable expenditure is spent on paint automation equipment and manual spraying techniques to ensure that the highest quality finish is produced at the lowest possible cost. This cycle repeats itself daily in many coating industries. Engineering reviews SPC charts and/or trend charts, and then adjusts automation based on historical data.

A statistically controlled condition exists when all special causes of film thickness variations have been eliminated with only common causes remaining. A "common" cause is

a source of variation that affects all the individual thickness values of the process. An SPC chart that is described as "in statistical control" possesses data values that neither surpass the control limits of the charts, nor possess non-random patterns or trends within the control limits.

Engineers refer to Process Capability indices (C_p and C_{pk}) generated by the SPC charts to evaluate the total range of a process's inherent variation. C_p is defined as a measurement of the allowable tolerance spread divided by the actual spread data. C_{pk} has a similar ratio to C_p but considers the shift of the mean film thickness relative to the central specification target.

Industry groups have set different control targets for what they consider capable processes. Raw data in software statistical control charts generate C_p and C_{pk} data. However, one manufacturer may consider the process in control when a C_{pk} of 1.33 is obtained, while another may seek a C_{pk} of 1.5. The Coating Applications Industry does not have a way to quickly identify the optimum statistical data from process data that will produce the given industry standard for a given C_{pk} value. Control Charts currently are used only for tracking purposes rather than control purposes.

Previous attempts at controlling processes within the Coatings Application Industry with only SPC (Statistical Process Control) charts suffer from a number of disadvantages:

(a) Engineers cannot calculate the minimal material usage for each painted surface area by increasing the process C_{pk} 's using commercially available SPC charts.

(b) Engineers cannot calculate the cost savings that can be realized for each painted surface area by increasing the process C_{pk} 's using commercially available SPC charts.

(c) Engineers only use SPC Control Charts for tracking rather than controlling purposes.

They must wait for a preset number of entries within the database before generating C_{pk} , rather than selecting a lesser number of current values and quickly determining its impact on C_{pk} .

(d) Most plant personnel do not realize that they can increase quality to industry standards, yet realize no savings in raw material usage and costs.

(e) Manufacturing facilities typically employ numerous types of coating applications as well as different colors among coatings. Substantial engineering and labor time is allocated for each manufacturing facility to analyze SPC charts that originate from the following categories:

1. each surface area measured;
2. each painting booth within the plant;
3. each style of manufactured product that is produced;
4. each color group or individual color that is used on the painted product; and
5. specific time frames where process improvements or evaluations are being conducted.

(f) substantial coating waste occurs because non-random trends are only identified a substantial period after the coating is applied, thus requiring excessive coating reworks of the painted products.

Typically, a coatings engineer will review an SPC chart, but fail to note the impact that continuing what is noted only as a temporary optimum trend, will have on the process in terms of savings in material usage and costs.

Appendix B highlights this point. This is an actual example from a coating process. Factors causing optimum Range value numbers: 7 (10/31), 8 (10/31), 12 (11/20), 13 (11/23), 14(11/27) and 20 (12/21) are observed but not scrutinized. The respective range values are: 0.01, 0.02,

0.03, 0.04, 0.01 and 0.03. Current commercially available statistical software packages do not correlate the effect that continuing an optimum range will have on reducing coating material usage and costs. At this one surface area, over a two month period (October 10 through December 21), the process was able to produce six optimum ranges which average 0.023 mil. versus an overall range average of 0.21 mil. for the same time period. Range values of coating thickness differ from unit to unit close to a magnitude of ten.

Standard prior art operating procedures continue tracking the data until a shift in the process data warrants the calculation of new control limits. Calculating new control limits usually require justifying to management why new control limits are necessary. Factors that warrant the calculation of new control limits, that are normally considered using the prior art method, include:

1. Waiting for a trend of seven consecutive points moving in the same direction, either upward or downward which indicates a gradual change in the process.
2. Waiting for seven points above the central line which indicates that the center of the normal distribution has started upward.
3. Waiting for seven points below the central line which indicates that the center of the normal distribution has started downward. Source: AIAG (Automotive Industry Action Group) Statistical Process Control (SPC) Reference Manual: pg. 41.

However, what the coatings industry and commercially available SPC programs fail to take into account is the analysis of obvious nonrandom patterns that exist in the Range average charts, specifically, the repeatability and/or pattern of a minimum of two optimum ranges that exist within a sample size of twenty readings. Twenty readings are the minimum number of points required for analysis. (Source: Implementing Six Sigma, Smarter Solutions Using Statistical Methods, by Forrest W. Breyfojlee III, pg. 160)

The AIAG recommends analyzing obvious nonrandom patterns on Range Charts. They recognize the importance of analyzing even a single point, but only if it falls out of the control limits. (Source: AIAG Reference Manual, pg. 42, 43 and 45)

The AIAG and the Coatings Industry have not recognized, the material, cost and environmental benefits of analyzing two optimum ranges found within a sample size of twenty readings, and within control limits.

A software program that analyzes material and/or cost impact based on optimum process ranges would enable engineers to respond more quickly to a detectable trend change. The response would include inserting the optimum achievable target range values into the program and comparing new control limits against industry and/or world class C_{pk} standards. This allows them to justify to their management, the reasons for identifying the sources contributing to the six optimum ranges, identified in Appendix B. Data can then be used to control the process rather than only tracking the process.

Appendix D, highlights what such an opportunity would provide.

The following data is available from the SPC chart [Appendix B]:

- 1) Coating
- 2) Surface Area Measured
- 3) Booth
- 4) Coating Minimum Specification
- 5) Actual Average

6) Actual Range

7) Actual C_{pk}

The following data is available from plant operations:

- 1) Usage Per Unit
- 2) Coating Cost per Gallon
- 3) Coating Popularity
- 4) Measured Surface Area Percentage
- 5) Booth Flow Percentage
- 6) Annualized Painted Part Production Volume
- 7) Industry or World Class C_{pk} Standard (Available from Reference Manuals)

The engineer inserts into the program data information from an ongoing process pertaining to the optimum process range of film thickness under a 1st Premise, identified as Target Range. New coating average thickness, upper and lower control limits or thickness are calculated as well as the effect of the change on coating usage (gallons) and costs.

The engineer then inserts into the software program information from an ongoing process pertaining to the optimum range pertaining to the coatings applicators manufacturer guidelines under a 2nd Premise, (below 1st premise), identified as Target Range.

The term "premise" means selecting either a new target range, a new range reduction value or a new adjusted coating average.

New coating average, upper and lower control limits are calculated as well as the effect of the change on coating usage and costs.

The novel software program automatically calculates under a 3rd Premise, the effect of maintaining the coating average constant but adjusting variability to the Industry or World Class Standard.

New upper and lower control limits are calculated together with their effect on coating usage (gallons) and costs.

Note this is an important premise. Since in each calculation, if the coating average remains constant, no reductions are obtained in material costs.

The novel process then automatically calculates under a 4th Premise, the effect of adjusting the coating average to the Industry or World Class Standard, but maintaining variability constant.

For example, data reveals that with the first premise for one surface area, a 33.35% reduction in coating usage or \$1,418.85 in cost savings could be obtained if the engineer replicates the conditions contributing to the optimum range. Note that this surface area represents 1.05% of one coating. Potentially, if this optimum range existed across the entire painted part, a cost savings of \$135,059.05 would be realized. If the cost per gallon is \$30.00, 4,502 gallons of coating would be saved. (Appendix D)

Another example of such waste is an industrial facility not realizing that several Coatings' Film Build C_{pk} s on certain parts of a painted surface have surpassed the Industry Standard. By not identifying the material and financial impact of this achievement, adjustments are not made to the other painted surface areas. The result is the continued acceptance of excess paint usage on this part, resulting in an annual additional expenditure of \$764,654.00 instead of product savings of \$49,232.00. Assuming a \$28.00 cost per gallon, the facility consumed an unnecessary 27,309 gallons of paint using the current method of tracking process data. (Appendix G)

The known prior art fails to address the aforementioned problems. U.S. Pat. No. 5,737,227 to Greenfield et al. describes a software-planning program for coatings but does not correlate the selection of an optimum range found within

the process to C_{pk} 's. U.S. Pat. No. 6,067,509 to Gaiski describes a SPC software program from Pelt Gage Thickness Measurements but does not correlate the selection of an optimum range found within the process to C_{pk} 's impact on material usage and costs.

The objectives of the present invention are:

- to provide an analytical tool for coating and painting facilities;
- to reduce variability and improve quality with C_{pk} Industry Standards and/or World Class Standards;
- to generate the usage impact of materials based on the correlation between optimum film build range averages with C_{pk} Industry Standards and/or World Class Standards;
- to generate the cost impact of materials based on the correlation between optimum film build range averages with C_{pk} Industry Standards and/or World Class Standards;
- to generate the usage impact of materials by correlating the process variability remaining constant and adjusting the film build average to C_{pk} Industry Standards and/or World Class Standards;
- to generate the cost impact of materials by correlating the optimum film build range averages obtained from the manufacturing process with C_{pk} Industry Standards and/or World Class Standards;
- to generate the cost impact of materials by correlating the optimum film build range averages obtained from the coatings applicators' manufacturer guidelines with C_{pk} Industry Standards and/or World Class Standards;
- to generate the usage impact of materials by correlating the optimum film build range averages obtained from the manufacturing process with C_{pk} Industry Standards and/or World Class Standards;
- to generate the usage impact of materials by correlating the optimum film build range averages obtained from the coatings applicators' manufacturer guidelines with C_{pk} Industry Standards and/or World Class Standards;
- to generate the cost impact of materials by correlating the process variability remaining constant and the film build average adjusted to C_{pk} Industry Standards and/or World Class Standards;
- to minimize the amount of reworks by reducing variability in coating applications by correlating optimum film build range averages with C_{pk} Industry Standards and/or World Class Standards;
- to minimize the amount of paint sludge generated in coating applications by correlating optimum film build range averages with C_{pk} Industry Standards and/or World Class Standards;
- to minimize the amount of volatile organic compounds generated in coating applications by correlating optimum film build range averages with C_{pk} Industry Standards and/or World Class Standards; and
- to minimize the amount of labor required for cleaning paint overspray generated in coating applications by correlating optimum film build range averages with C_{pk} Industry Standards and/or World Class Standards.

The novel program is used in paint departments to optimize paint usage, to reduce material costs, and to improve the quality of the painted part through variability reduction. Additionally, environmental benefits are achieved by reducing volatile organic compounds, which are directly related to paint usage. Landfill reduction is also achieved as less paint is consumed to generate paint sludge requiring disposal. Plant labor costs for cleaning paint overspray are also reduced.

This new statistical analysis links together a paint department's quality, financial and process analysis to yield both economic and environmental benefits. The analysis enables coating manufacturing applicators a way to accurately predict the costs and material savings associated with their equipment, using the coating range available with their equipment.

Accordingly, the objects and advantages of the present invention are to reduce material usage and costs by incorporating within a manufacturing facility, a means for generating Film Build C_{pk} 's Material and or Cost Impact Analysis sheets:

- (a) from each surface area measured, thereby reducing material usage and costs;
- (b) from each painting location measured;
- (c) from each style of manufacturer product measured;
- (d) from each color group or individual color measured;
- (e) from each coating type measured;
- (f) from specific time frames measured;
- (g) on a timely measurement basis; and
- (h) for each manufacturer of coating applicators based on their particular performance ranges.

SUMMARY

Using the preferred method, the Engineer reviews preferably 20 points on an X-Bar R chart. Each point may be the average of all the measurements of sample cars for a day.

The Engineer then selects two points with the lowest ranges from the 20 points. The values of the selected two points are then used to recalculate C_{pk} , C_p etc.

This is a repeated process, that is, the Engineer reviews each new set of 20 points, takes the two points with the lowest range and repeats his calculation.

In some cases, it may be viable to recalculate C_{pk} after each new set of a lesser number of points, as long as he considers the latest 20 points. He thus is continuously monitoring the process, and tightening up the tolerance levels by reducing the impact of obvious non-random causes of variability.

Still further objects and advantages of the invention will become readily apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention pertains upon reference to the following detailed description.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The description refers to the accompanying drawings in which like reference characters refer to like parts throughout the several views, and in which:

FIGS. 1 and 2 are block diagrams of a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Step 100

Referring to FIG. 1, a computer 100 with the novel program installed is used to collect data pertaining to the Coating Film Build. An entry field exists within the program for industry or world class C_{pk} values. The program processes the coating process data and uses one of four or all four algorithms to calculate an Impact Analysis pertaining to the Coatings Material Usage and Cost Performance.

The user enters into the computer system the following data into a history database: the coating identification, the coating usage per unit, the coating cost per gallon, the

7

coating popularity of all coatings, the annualized production, the coating minimum engineering and/or material specification, and the coating application areas.

Step 200

The user then enters industry or World Class C_{pk} values. Available from their Internal Quality Departments. This data interacts with a set of rules within the program that tie this data with the corresponding coating range values.

Step 300

The user enters the following data into the computer system from the history database: Actual Surface Film Build Average, Actual Surface Film Build Range Average, Actual Surface Film Build C_{pk} and Actual Surface Film Build Subgroup Size.

Step 400

The user selects different range values for the Material and Cost C_{pk} Impact Analysis. The range values are obtained from analyzing a sample size of twenty units. Values are referenced from a Range Chart on either an X-Bar and R-Chart or an Individual and Moving Range Chart. Optimum range values (a minimum of two) are identified as obvious nonrandom patterns.

An algorithm calculates the Impact Analysis with the aforementioned two items as well as by process variability adjustment and average variability adjustment.

EXAMPLE OF CALCULATIONS USED IN IMPACT ANALYSIS PREMISES

Refer to Appendix F.

Subgroup Size of Surface Measurement: 14

Constants for this Subgroup Size: $A_2=0.235$, $d_2=3.407$

A_2 is a Factor for \bar{X} Chart Limits. It is a matter of \bar{R} used to calculate the control limits for averages.

d_2 is a Factor for estimating Process Standard Deviation.

Coating Process Data:

Coating Lower Specification Limit (LSL)=0.90 Mils, Actual $C_{pk}=0.587$, Industry and/or World Class $C_{pk}=1.5$

Upper Control Limit (UCL)=1.4098

Coating Film Build Mean (\bar{X})=1.25, Coating Range Mean (\bar{R})=0.68

Formulas

$$UCL=\bar{X}+(A_2 \times \bar{R}), \sigma=\bar{R}/d_2, C_{pk}=(\bar{X}-LSL)/3\sigma$$

1st Premise: Choose Optimum Range from Process Charts Intent is to achieve the industry and/or world class standard of a $C_{pk}=1.5$

For an example, a range average of 0.20 is selected.

$$\sigma=\bar{R}/d_2 \Rightarrow 0.2/3.407 \Rightarrow \sigma=0.0587$$

$$3\sigma=(3)(0.0587)=0.1761$$

$$C_{pk}=(\bar{X}-LSL)/3\sigma \quad 1.5=(x-0.9)/0.1761$$

Result of Analysis:

$\bar{X}=1.164$, this represents a new coating average, which is less than the current process average of 1.25 by 6.87%.

Decrease in coating usage would occur, if new variability could be achieved.

2nd Premise: Choose Optimum Range from Coatings Applicators' Manufacturer Guidelines. In this example, the manufacturer claimed a coating range of 0.50, the following data will show that to achieve the industry standard of a C_{pk} of 1.5, the coating average will still have to be elevated at current process levels.

8

For an example, a range average of 0.20 is selected.

$$\sigma=\bar{R}/d_2 \Rightarrow 0.5/3.407 \Rightarrow \sigma=0.147$$

$$3\sigma=(3)(0.0587)=0.441$$

$$C_{pk}=(\bar{X}-LSL)/3\sigma \quad 1.5=(x-0.9)/0.441$$

Result of Analysis:

$\bar{X}=1.56$, this represents a new coating average, which is more than the current process average of 1.25 by 24.83%. Increase in coating usage would occur, applicator process variability is not sufficient by itself to take the process to the industry standard of a C_{pk} of 1.5.

Example of Calculations Used in Impact Analysis Premises

3rd Premise: Average Remains Constant, Variability Adjusted to World Class Standard Intent is to achieve the industry and/or world class standard of a $C_{pk}=1.5$

$$UCL=\bar{X}+(A_2 \times \bar{R})$$

$$1.3123=1.25+(0.235 \times \bar{R}) \Rightarrow 0.0623=(0.235 \times \bar{R}) \Rightarrow 0.265=\bar{R}$$

$$C_{pk}=(\bar{X}-LSL)/3\sigma \Rightarrow 1.5=(1.25-0.9)/3\sigma$$

$$\sigma=\bar{R}/d_2 \Rightarrow 0.265/3.407=0.07778$$

$$(3)(\sigma)=0.23334$$

30 Result of Analysis:

This would result in a shift in the variability, however the coating average would remain the same. Facility would not experience any decrease in coatings usage.

4th Premise: Coating Usage Increases, Process Variability Remains Constant. Intent is to achieve the industry and/or world class standard of a $C_{pk}=1.5$

Coating Range Mean (\bar{R})=0.68

$$\sigma=\bar{R}/d_2 \Rightarrow 0.68/3.407 \Rightarrow \sigma=0.1995$$

$$(3)(\sigma)=0.5985$$

$$C_{pk}=(\bar{X}-LSL)/3\sigma \Rightarrow 1.5=(\bar{X}-0.9)/0.5985 \Rightarrow 0.898=(x-0.9) \Rightarrow x=1.798$$

45 Result of Analysis:

Coating Film Build Average shifted substantially upward by 43.85%

Example of C_{pk} Increases Due to Reducing the Film Build Range

The following reference data is used:

Panel measured:	Hood	
Film Build:	Average (\bar{X}) = 0.88	Range (\bar{R}) = 0.647
Subgroup Size:	n = 24 $A_2 = 0.157$	$d_2 = 3.895$

Minimum Spec. (LSL): 0.60 Mil

Sigma formula: $\sigma=\bar{R}/d_2$

C_{pk} formula: $(\bar{X}-LSL)/3\sigma$

Example: Reducing the Film Build Range

A) Initial range used: 0.647 Mils

Additional ranges used: 0.50 Mils, 0.25 Mils, and 0.10 Mils

B) Sigma is calculated for each range: $\sigma = \bar{R}/d_2$

1 st Range: 0.647 Mils	2 nd Range: 0.50 Mils	3 rd Range: 0.25 Mils	4 th Range: 0.10 Mils
$\sigma = 0.637/3.895$ $\sigma = 0.166$	$\sigma = 0.50/3.895$ $\sigma = 0.128$	$\sigma = 0.25/3.895$ $\sigma = 0.064$	$\sigma = 0.10/3.895$ $\sigma = 0.0257$

C) Calculate 3σ for each range

1 st Range: 0.647 Mils	2 nd Range: 0.50 Mils	3 rd Range: 0.25 Mils	4 th Range: 0.10 Mils
$3\sigma = (3)(0.166)$ $3\sigma = 0.498$	$3\sigma = (3)(0.128)$ $3\sigma = 0.384$	$3\sigma = (3)(0.064)$ $3\sigma = 0.192$	$3\sigma = (3)(0.0257)$ $3\sigma = 0.0771$

D) C_{pk} is calculated with the different ranges in Film Build:

$$(\bar{X} - LSL)/3\sigma$$

1 st Range: 0.647 Mils	2 nd Range: 0.50 Mils	3 rd Range: 0.25 Mils	4 th Range: 0.10 Mils
$C_{pk} = (0.88 - 0.6)/0.498$ $C_{pk} = 0.562$	$C_{pk} = (0.88 - 0.6)/0.384$ $C_{pk} = 0.729$	$C_{pk} = (0.88 - 0.6)/0.192$ $C_{pk} = 1.458$	$C_{pk} = (0.88 - 0.6)/0.0771$ $C_{pk} = 3.63$

Example of C_{pk} Increases Due to Increasing the Film Build Average

Example: Increase Film Build Average by 0.10 Mils

A)

$$\text{Sigma } (\sigma) \text{ is calculated } \sigma = \bar{R}/d_2$$

$$0.166 = 0.647/3.895$$

B) 3 Sigma (3σ) is calculated:

$$(3)(0.166)=0.498$$

C) C_{pk} is calculated with Film Build increasing by 0.10 Mils:

$$(\bar{X} - LSL)/3\sigma$$

1 st Film Build: 0.88 Mils	2 nd Film Build: 0.98 Mils	3 rd Film Build: 1.08 Mils
$C_{pk} = (0.88 - 0.6)/0.498$ $C_{pk} = 0.562$	$C_{pk} = (0.98 - 0.6)/0.498$ $C_{pk} = 0.763$	$C_{pk} = (1.08 - 0.6)/0.498$ $C_{pk} = 0.964$
4 th Film Build: 1.18 Mils	5 th Film Build: 1.28 Mils	6 th Film Build: 1.38 Mils
$C_{pk} = (1.18 - 0.6)/0.498$ $C_{pk} = 1.16$	$C_{pk} = (1.28 - 0.6)/0.498$ $C_{pk} = 1.37$	$C_{pk} = (1.38 - 0.6)/0.498$ $C_{pk} = 1.56$

COST EXAMPLE

35 The following cost reference data is used:

Annualized Production (units):	200,000
Coating:	Black Prime
Point:	#22, Center of Hood
Minimum Unilateral Spec:	0.9
Usage per Unit (gals./unit):	0.30
Originating Booth:	Prime
Coating Popularity (%):	25
Point (%):	1.5**
Cost Per Gallon (\$):	24.00
Booth Percent Flow (%):	100**

*Point Subgroup Size = 2

**Percent Point refers to approximate area of paint required per point in regards to the total unit painted

***Booth % Flow refers to approximate production flow of units through a designated booth

The following coating reference data is used:

Coating Average Film Build (mils): 1.57

55 Selected Coating Range (mils): 0.21

Actual C_{pk} : 1.17

EXAMPLE 1: Selected Variation: 0.1

The following coating reference data is obtained:

60 Coating Average Film Build (mils): 1.30

Selected Coating Range (mils): 0.10

World Class C_{pk} : 1.500

Effect On Paint Usage**:

65 ** Percentage obtained from the following calculation:

Old coating average at a C_{pk} of 1.170=1.57 mils

New coating average at a C_{pk} of 1.500=1.30 mils

Effect on paint usage = $((\text{New Average} - \text{Old Average}) / \text{Old Average}) \times 100 = 17.19\% = ((1.30 - 1.57) / 1.57) \times 100$
 Approximate Annualized Cost Change Algorithm:

$$(\text{Cost/gal.}) \times (\text{Usage/Unit}) \times (\text{Annual Prod. Flow}) \times (\text{Booth \%}) \times (\text{Color Pop.}) \times (\text{Point \%}) \times (\text{Paint Change \%})$$

$$(24.00) \times (0.30) \times (200,000) \times (1.00) \times (0.25) \times (0.015) \times (-0.1719)$$

Approximate Annualized Cost Change: -\$928.26

EXAMPLE 2: New Average Millage with Current Variation
 The following coating reference data is obtained:

Coating Average Film Build (mils): 1.737

Coating Range (mils): 0.21

Actual C_{pk} : 1.500

Effect On Paint Usage**:

** Percentage obtained from the following calculation:

Old Coating average at a C_{pk} of 1.170-1.57 mils

New coating average at a C_{pk} of 1.500-1.737 mils

Effect on paint usage = $((\text{New Average} - \text{Old Average}) / \text{Old Average}) \times 100$

$$10.64\% = ((1.737 - 1.57) / 1.57) \times 100$$

Approximate Annualized Cost Change Algorithm:

$$(\text{Cost/gal.}) \times (\text{Usage/Unit}) \times (\text{Annual Prod. Flow}) \times (\text{Booth \%}) \times (\text{Color Pop.}) \times (\text{Point \%}) \times (\text{Paint Change \%})$$

$$(24.00) \times (0.30) \times (200,000) \times (1.00) \times (0.25) \times (0.015) \times (0.1064)$$

Approximate Annualized Cost Change: \$574.56

BEST EXAMPLE

Cost Example

Referring to Appendix D for reference information.

Given the following reference data:

Annualized Production (units): 200,000

Coating: Taupe Prime

Point: #22, Center of Hood

Coating Minimum Specification: 0.9

Usage Per Unit (gal.): 0.27

Originating Booth: Prime

Coating Popularity: 25

Point (%): 1.05

Cost Per Gallon (\$): 30.00

Booth Percent Flow (%) 100

Coating Actual Average (Mils): 1.47

Coating Actual Range (Mils): 0.21

Actual C_{pk} : 1.04

Target Range Selected from Data (Mils): 0.02

World Class C_{pk} : 1.5

$E_2 = 2.66$ E_2 is Factor for Control Limits

$d_2 = 1.128$ d_2 is Factor for estimating Process Standard Deviation

Formulas:

$$UCL_x = \bar{X} + (E_2 \cdot R), \sigma = R/d_2, C_{pk} = (\bar{X} - LSL)/3\sigma$$

The target range of 0.02 mils was selected from the Process Data.

$$\sigma = R/d_2 = 0.02/1.128 \quad \sigma = 0.01773 \quad 3\sigma = 3(0.08865) = 0.053$$

$$C_{pk} = (\bar{X} - LSL)/3\sigma = 1.15 = (\bar{X} - 0.90)/0.053 = 0.9795$$

$\bar{X} = 0.9795 \rightarrow$ This represents a new Coating Average, which is less than the actual Coating Average of 1.47.

Effect on Paint Usage

** Percentage obtained from the following calculation:

Old Coating Average at a C_{pk} of 1.04 \rightarrow 1.47 mils

New Coating Average at a C_{pk} of 1.5 \rightarrow 0.9795 mils

Effect on paint usage = $((\text{New Average} - \text{Old Average}) / \text{Old Average}) \times 100$

$$(0.9795 \text{ mils} - 1.47 \text{ mils}) / 1.47 \text{ mils} \times 100 = -33.35\%$$

Approximate Annualized Cost Change Algorithm:

$$(\text{Cost/gal.}) \times (\text{Usage/Unit}) \times (\text{Annual Prod. Flow}) \times (\text{Booth \%}) \times (\text{Color Population}) \times (\text{Point \%}) \times (\text{Paint Change \%})$$

$$(30.00) \times (0.27) \times (200,000) \times (1) \times (0.25) \times (0.0105) \times (-0.3335)$$

Approximate Annualized Cost Change = (\$1,418.12)

\$1,418.12 reduction represents 1.05% of Entire Unit

Entire Unit Equivalent to 100%, therefore:

$$\frac{\$1,418.12}{1.05\%} = \frac{\$Total}{100\%}$$

\$1,418.12 = (0.0105) Total Amount

\$135,059.05 savings if Total Unit Painted

APPENDIX A is an X-Bar and R Chart of an SPC chart used within the coating industry.

APPENDIX B is an Individual and Moving Range Chart of an SPC chart used within the coating industry.

APPENDIX C is a Schematic Profile containing statistical information used within the coating industry.

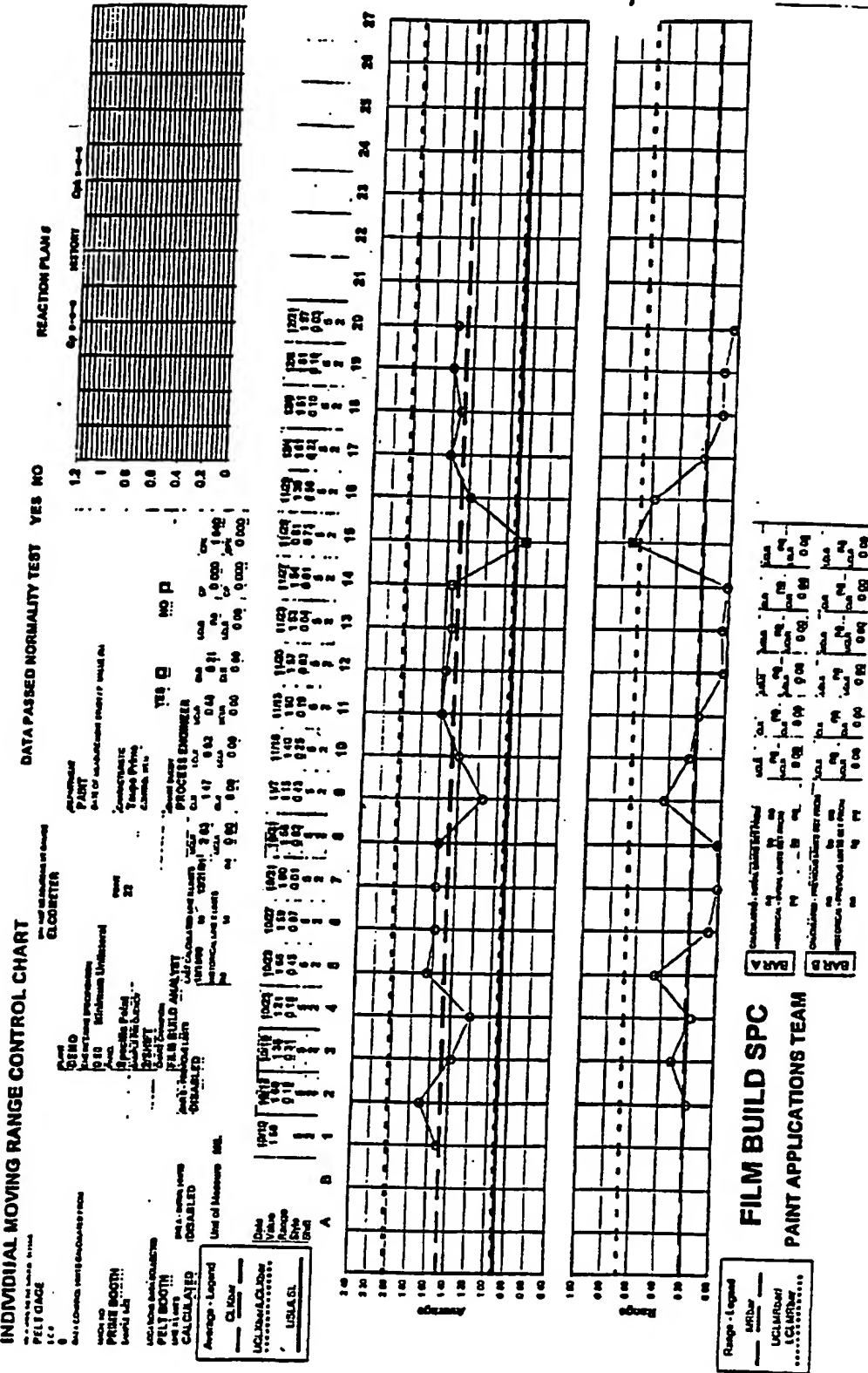
APPENDIX D is an example of the output of the novel invention entitled A Film Build C_{pk} 's Cost Impact Analysis Sheet.

APPENDIX E is a constants and formula page reference of formulas for X and R Charts and the Rule of Seven.

APPENDIX F is a second example of the output of the novel invention that is referenced in the Example of Calculations used in Impact Analysis Premises.

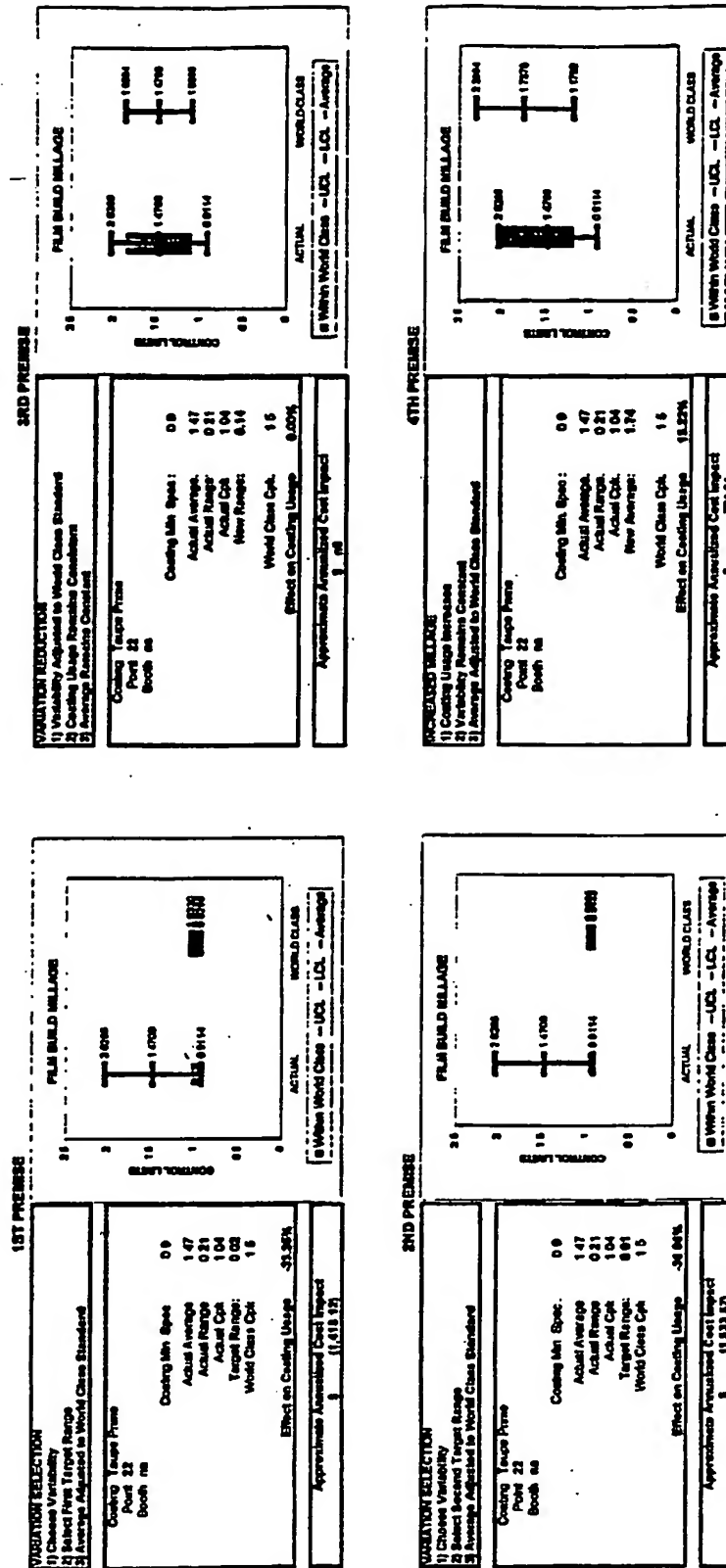
APPENDIX G is an example of the Cost Impact associated with three different conditions:

- 1) Millage Adjustment, Variability Constant
- 2) Range Variability Adjusted to 0.10 mils; and
- 3) Range Variability Adjusted to 0.20 mils.



APPENDIX D

Film Build Cpk's Cost Impact Analysis



Coating Target Price	Point 22	Usage per Unit (g)	Cost per Unit (g)	Coating Frequency %	Point %	Booth & Floor	Annualized Production Policy
		0.27	50.00	24	1.00	100	200,000

APPENDIX B

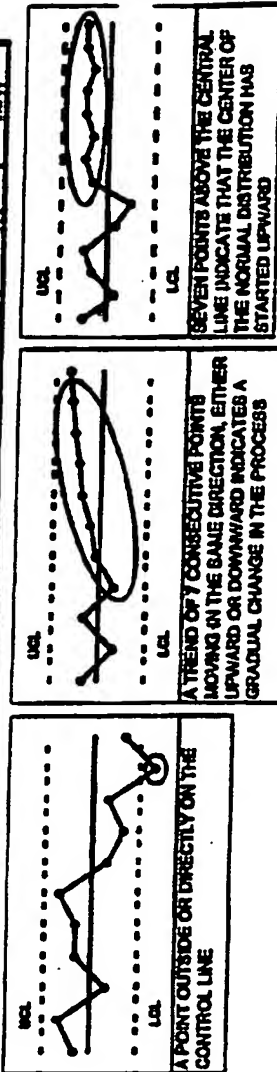
CONSTANTS AND FORMULAS

X-Chart		R-Chart
$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum X}{n}$		$CL_R = R = \frac{\sum R}{k}$
$UCL_{\bar{X}} = \bar{X} + \frac{\sum \bar{X}}{k}$		$UCL_R = D_4 \times R$
$LCL_{\bar{X}} = \bar{X} - (A_2 \times R)$		$LCL_R = D_3 \times R$
$C_p = \frac{USL - LSL}{6\sigma}$		$\theta = \frac{R}{\sigma_2}$
$Cpk = \text{minimum of } \frac{USL - \bar{X}}{3\sigma} \text{ or } \frac{\bar{X} - LSL}{3\sigma}$		

CONTROL CHARTS FOR VARIABLE DATA

\bar{x}	Individual Measurement
$\bar{\bar{x}}$	Subgroup Average
\bar{R}	Grand Average
Σ	Sum of
R	Range = Highest Value - Lowest Value
CL	Center Line
UCL	Upper Control Limit
LCL	Lower Control Limit
k	Number of Subgroups
n	Subgroup Size
σ	Process Standard Deviation
A_2	Factor for \bar{x} Chart Limits
D_4	Factor for UCL on R Chart
D_3	Factor for LCL on R Chart
USL	Upper Specification Limit
LSL	Lower Specification Limit
σ_2	Factor for estimating Process Standard Deviation

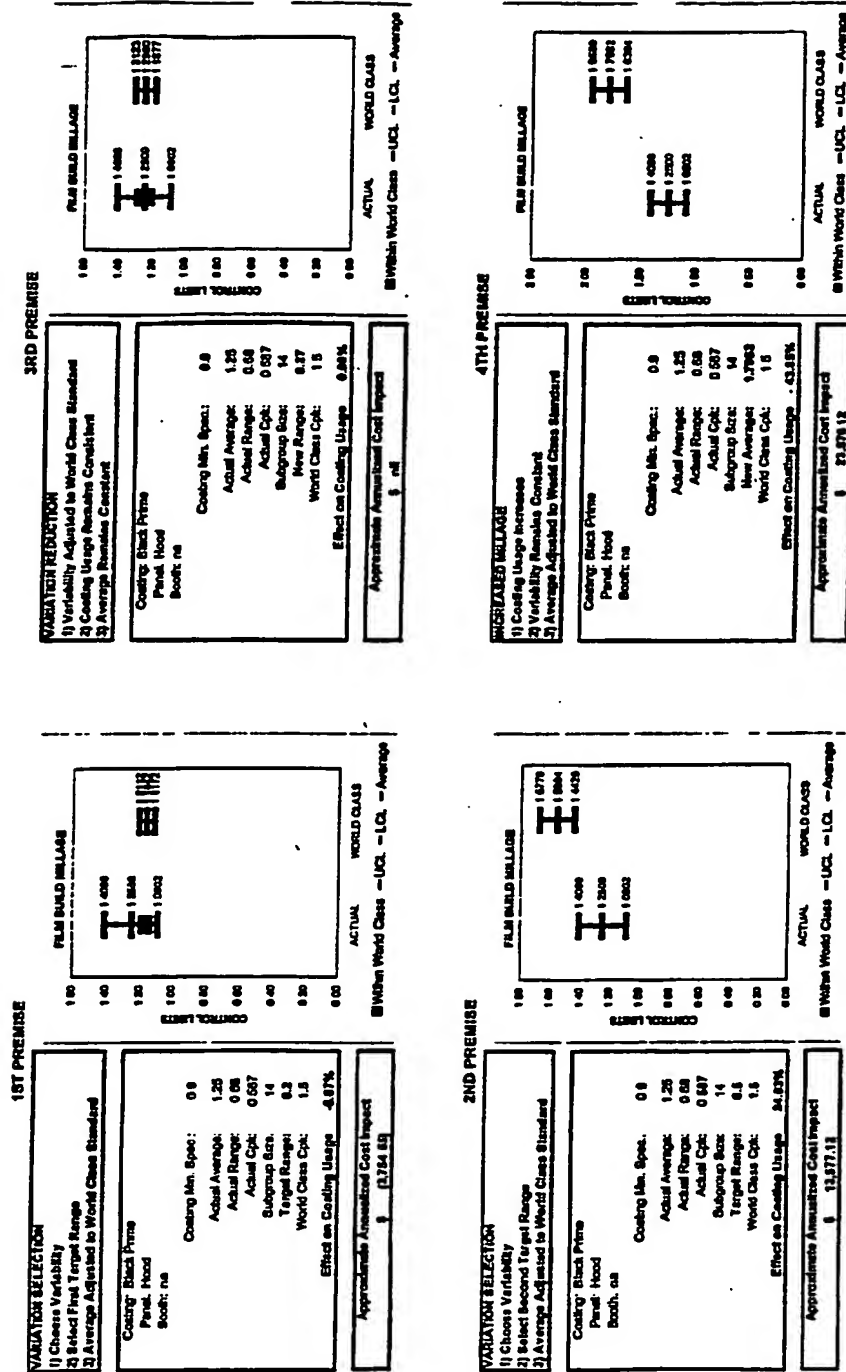
Chart X		Range Chart R			
n	Subgroup Size	A ₂	Estimate of Standard Deviation Divisor	D ₃	D ₄
2	2	1.880	1.128	0	3.170
3	3	1.023	1.693	0	2.574
4	4	0.729	2.059	0	2.282
5	5	0.577	2.258	0	2.114
6	6	0.483	2.338	0	2.004
7	7	0.419	2.404	0.078	1.924
8	8	0.373	2.447	0.136	1.864
9	9	0.337	2.478	0.184	1.814
10	10	0.308	2.500	0.223	1.771
11	11	0.285	2.515	0.254	1.734
12	12	0.266	2.525	0.281	1.702
13	13	0.249	2.532	0.307	1.673
14	14	0.235	2.537	0.328	1.647
15	15	0.223	2.540	0.347	1.623
16	16	0.212	2.542	0.363	1.601
17	17	0.203	2.543	0.377	1.581
18	18	0.194	2.544	0.389	1.563
19	19	0.187	2.545	0.399	1.547
20	20	0.180	2.545	0.408	1.533
21	21	0.173	2.545	0.416	1.520
22	22	0.167	2.545	0.423	1.508
23	23	0.162	2.545	0.429	1.497
24	24	0.157	2.545	0.435	1.487
25	25	0.153	2.545	0.440	1.478



CONSTANTS AND FORMULAS

APPENDIX F

Film Build Cpk's Cost Impact Analysis



APPENDIX G

Variability Reduction Tools

Automotive Facility
Booth 2 Clear Coat Film Build Cost Analysis

25

US 6,772,092 B2

26

<u>Panel</u>	<u>Millage Adjusted, Variability Constant</u>	<u>Range Variability Adjusted: 0.10 Mills</u>	<u>Range Variability Adjusted: 0.20 Mills</u>
Left	\$ 214,576	\$ 7,333	\$ 25,674
Right	\$ 263,413	\$ 22,571	\$ 41,838
Hood	\$ 161,393	(\$ 39,670)	(\$ 23,712)
Roof	\$ 84,819	(\$ 19,053)	(\$ 505)
Deck	<u>\$ 40,453</u>	<u>(\$ 20,413)</u>	<u>(\$ 10,903)</u>
Totals:	\$ 764,654	(\$ 49,232)	\$ 32,392

27

Having described my invention, I claim:

1. A computer-implemented method for monitoring variations in the film build thickness of workpieces on which a film build process has been performed, comprising the steps of:

measuring the film build thickness of a group of workpieces, the group comprising at least two subgroups of workpieces, each subgroup including at least two workpieces;

calculating the range of the film build thickness measurements of each subgroup, each range comprising the difference between the greatest thickness measurement and the least thickness measurement of the subgroup;

selecting data from at least two of said subgroups having the smallest of the calculated ranges; and

monitoring variations of the film build thickness of subsequent workpieces coated in the film build by processing the data from the selected subgroups.

2. A method as defined in claim 1, including the step of calculating upper and lower control limits from the calculated ranges of the selected subgroups.

3. A method as defined in claim 1, including the step of calculating upper and lower control limits for the film build process after each group of 20 subgroups has been measured.

4. A method as defined in claim 1, including the step of calculating upper and lower control limits after the film build thickness of each additional subgroup has been measured, and including the latest 20 subgroups for selecting the subgroups having the smallest of the calculated ranges.

5. A method as defined in claim 1, including the step of measuring the film build thickness of the corresponding surface area on a group of similar workpieces.

6. A method as defined in claim 1, including the step of measuring the film build thickness of the corresponding surface area on a group of similar workpieces that have been coated with a film in the same painting booth.

7. A method as defined in claim 1, including the step of measuring the film build thickness of the corresponding surface area on a group of similar workpieces that have been coated with a film in the same color group.

8. A method as defined in claim 1, including the step of measuring the film build thickness of the corresponding surface area on a group of similar workpieces that have been coated within the same time frame.

9. A method as defined in claim 1, including the step of calculating the change in quantity of film build material being used in the film build process by substituting new process control limits for existing process control limits, the new process control limits having been calculated from the ranges of the selected subgroups.

10. A method as defined in claim 1, including the step of calculating the change in cost of film build material being used in the process by substituting new calculated process control limits for existing process control limits, the new

28

process control limits having been calculated from the ranges of the selected subgroups.

11. A method as defined in claim 1, including the step of calculating C_{pk} based on the ranges of the selected subgroups.

12. A method as defined in claim 1, including the step of calculating a film build average thickness from data selected from the selected subgroups.

13. A method as defined in claim 9, including the steps of calculating the difference in C_{pk} for the new process control limits and the existing process control limits, and then calculating the change in film build material usage from the difference in C_{pk} .

14. A computer-implemented method for monitoring variations in the film build thickness of workpieces on which a film build process has been performed, comprising the steps of:

measuring the film build thickness of a group of workpieces, the group comprising at least two subgroups of workpieces, each subgroup including at least two workpieces;

calculating the range of the film build thickness measurements of each subgroup, each range comprising the difference between the greatest thickness measurement and the least thickness measurement of the subgroup;

selecting data from at least two of said subgroups having the smallest of the calculated ranges;

monitoring variations of the film build thickness of subsequent workpieces coated in the film build by processing the data from the selected subgroups; and

including the step of calculating C_{pk} based on the ranges of the selected subgroups.

15. A computer-implemented method for monitoring variations in the film build thickness of workpieces, based on process capability analysis on which a film build process has been performed, comprising the steps of:

measuring the film build thickness of a group of workpieces, the group comprising at least two subgroups of workpieces, each subgroup including at least two workpieces;

calculating the range of the film build thickness measurements of each subgroup, each range comprising the difference between the greatest thickness measurement and the least thickness measurement of the subgroup;

selecting data from at least two of said subgroups having the smallest of the calculated ranges; and

monitoring variations of the film build thickness of subsequent workpieces coated in the film build by processing the data from the selected subgroups; and

including the steps of calculating the difference in C_{pk} for the new process control limits and the existing process control limits, and then calculating the change in film build material usage from said difference in C_{pk} .

* * * * *

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